

**METHOD, SYSTEM, AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING READ-ONLY  
ACCESS TO NETWORK ELEMENT CONFIGURATION DATA**

**Abstract**

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A method for providing read-only access to network element configuration data is provided. A request is received to access configuration data for a network element. In response to such a request, a communications session is initiated with the network element. Configuration data is then received from the network element. The  
10 configuration data is compared to configuration data for the network element previously stored in a database. If the previously-stored configuration is not identical to the received configuration data, the database is updated with the current configuration data for the network element. The configuration data is then transmitted in read-only format as a response to the initial request for network element configuration data.